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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 70/NO. 34 SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

Socialist Workers Party candidates:
Legalize all immigrants now! 'We're workers, not criminals!'

The following statement was issued August 30 by Róger Calero and Maura DeLuca, Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. Senate and governor of New York, respectively.

Amnesty now! Unconditional, immediate residency for all undocumented immigrants! End the immigration sweeps and deportations!

We urge participation in the Labor Day and other mobilizations for the legalization of immigrants—especially the September 7 march in Washington—to advance these demands, which the labor movement and all working people need to champion.

STATEMENT BY SWP CANDIDATES

The latest immigrant rights demonstrations build on the unprecedented mass mobilizations in the spring, when millions said, "We are workers, not criminals!" The May 1 actions involved 2 million workers, in what became the first nationwide general political strike in the United States. This working-class movement is setting an example for all workers: an example of solidarity, organization, and struggle. It is having an impact on many U.S.-born working people seeking a way

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Elvira Arellano gets support to fight deportation



Militant/Rollande Girard

Elvira Arellano, a former airplane cleaner at O'Hare airport, was arrested in a 2002 immigration raid. She is pictured August 20 at Chicago's Adalberto United Methodist Church, where she recently took sanctuary after defying deportation order (see p. 4).

Survivor of Sago disaster, others sue bosses for miners' deaths

BY CINDY JAQUITH

PITTSBURGH—Randal McCloy, the sole survivor of the Sago Mine disaster in West Virginia, and the families of two miners killed at Sago have each filed lawsuits charging the companies involved with unsafe practices that sent 12 miners to their deaths.

A methane gas explosion ripped through the Sago Mine January 2 from a portion of the mine that had been sealed off with Omega block, made of lightweight fiber material. One miner was killed from the impact of the blast. The other 11 died from carbon monoxide poisoning while waiting for rescue teams, which took 41 hours to reach the trapped workers.

The suit by McCloy names as defendants the International Coal Group (ICG), the conglomerate that owns Sago; Wolf Run Mining Co., an ICG subsidiary that runs the mine; CSE Corp., which makes the oxygen air packs used at the mine; Burrell Mining Products, Inc., which manufactures Omega blocks; GMS Mine Repair and Maintenance, a contracting company that built the Omega block seals that burst with the explosion; and Raleigh Mine and Industrial Supply, Inc., which sold the blocks used for the seals.

The other two suits also name ICG and other related companies as defen dants. "During 2005, the Mine Safety

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Black lung disease affecting younger miners

BY SALM KOLIS

HARLAN, Kentucky—A study released by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) shows that despite an overall decline in cases of black lung, coal miners are contracting the disease at a younger age. The report identifies 22 counties in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia as "hot spots." It also notes a handful of other such counties in Alabama and Colorado.

In these states miners in their 30s, 40s, and early 50s are getting black lung. That's about 10 to 30 years sooner than in the past. Thirty-five percent of the cases were described as rapidly progressive, meaning the scar tissue in the lungs was spreading about twice as fast as normal.

Black lung is contracted by prolonged breathing of coal dust. There is no cure. But the disease can be prevented by properly ventilating coal mines. As far back as 1995, NIOSH recommended lowering the coal-dust limit from two to one milligrams per cubic meter. The federal government, however, has taken no action on the

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Socialist candidates in Iowa: 'Drought relief, affordable credit for farmers!'

BY KEVIN DWIRE

DES MOINES, Iowa—"The double blows of drought and higher fuel prices are hitting farmers throughout the Plains region of the Midwest," said Frank Forrestal, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for secretary of agriculture in Iowa. He recently spoke with farmers while campaigning at the Iowa State Fair and at the August 25–26 meeting of the Iowa Farmers Union in Ankeny.

"The drought comes at a time when production costs are up because of rising prices for fuel, fertilizer, seed, pesticides, and other inputs," said Forrestal, who works on the kill floor at Tyson Foods, a pork processor in Perry, Iowa.

In response to these conditions, the socialist candidates have called for "government-funded affordable credit for working farmers and price supports to cover their production costs," Forrestal said. "We also demand protection for working farmers who suffer losses from drought and floods."

Drought conditions have hit the Great

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Contingents from 17 states expected at Sept. 7 D.C. rally

BY SETH DELLINGER

WASHINGTON—"The word is spreading," said Raymundo Núñez, a construction worker who has been volunteering to distribute flyers building the September 7 immigrant rights march here organized by the National Capital Immigration Coalition (NCIC). "A lot of people I've talked to recently already knew about it," he said.

América Calderón of the NCIC said in an August 29 phone interview that organizers now expect participation from 17 states on the East Coast.

There is plenty of activity in this area to

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Political crisis unfolds in Israel in aftermath of war on Lebanon

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In the aftermath of the war against Lebanon, a political crisis is unfolding in Israel. An open discussion is taking place among Israeli military and political leaders about steps necessary to transform Tel Aviv's military to prepare for and wage the next war more effectively.

Hundreds of reservists marched on the offices of Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert at the end of August. They protested what they called the ineffective use of military force in conducting the month-long war on Lebanon, *USA Today* reported. The reservists set up a tent city there with signs calling for the resignation of Olmert and Defense Minister Amir Peretz, both of whom have little military experience, and the military chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz.

In a public letter sent to the soldiers August 24, Halutz admitted that the Israeli military operations involved "shortcomings in various areas—logistical, operational, and command…. Questions will be answered professionally, and everyone will be investigated—from me down to the last soldier."

At the same time, the head of Shin Bet, the Israeli intelligence service, called the war "a fiasco." According to the August 24 *Boston Globe,* Shin Bet director Yuval Diskin said at a closed security forum, "There were many failures, and the public sees and understands this…. Someone has to provide explanations and take

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Also Inside:

Iowa socialist campaign

Continued from front page

Plains the hardest from North Dakota to Nebraska and Texas. Many farmers have faced drought conditions for six years.

"I'll be using the highest-price diesel I've ever bought in my life to combine the lowest-producing corn I've ever produced," Klint Cork, who grows corn and soybeans in western Iowa, told the *Des Moines Register*. He said in his area it rained less than an inch in May, June, and July. Parts of his farm may produce just 30 bushels an acre of corn at harvest time. Iowa's average corn yield this year is expected to be 173 bushels an acre.

While much-needed rain finally came, high fuel costs are eating into farmers' bottom line. At the Iowa State Fair, Bob Beckman, a dairy farmer in West Burlington, Iowa, told Forrestal he is paying $2,000 a month for fuel, almost double what he had been paying. Beckman has 50 cows on his 300-acre farm.

The farmers most affected are in an area stretching from south-central North Dakota to central South Dakota. A U.S. Agriculture Department official said the drought, which began in 1999, is the third worst on record. The other two came in the 1930s and 1950s.

"Some ranchers have been forced to sell their entire herds, and others are either moving their cattle to greener pastures or buying more already-costly feed. Hundreds of acres of grasslands have been blackened by fires sparked by lightning or farm equipment," according to an Associated Press report. Conditions are so bad that farmers in North Dakota are carrying fire extinguishers while working to cut down on grass fires.

"This is not primarily a natural disaster—it's a capitalist disaster," Forrestal told farmers he spoke with. "The profit system concentrates wealth in the hands of capitalist farmers and companies, while driving small farmers to the brink. And the policies of the twin capitalist parties, the Democrats and Republicans, are designed to benefit the rich."

"The labor movement needs to champion demands in support of farmers and build an alliance of working people to fight for our common interests," he said. "Revolutionary Cuba, where working farmers are guaranteed they'll never lose their land, is an example of what a workers and farmers government can accomplish. That's what we need here."

Communist League launches mayoral election campaign in Toronto



Militant/John Steele

TORONTO—The Communist League in Canada launched its election campaign here August 18. It is standing Joe Young for Toronto mayor (above), Beverly Bernardo for city council in Ward 14, and Michel Dugré for city council in Ward 12. Young is a meat packer and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers. Bernardo and Dugré are garment workers.

"The Communist League campaign presents a working-class alternative to all capitalist parties," said Young. "The workplace deaths of nearly 1,000 workers across Canada in 2004 are a key reason to build and extend union power."

The communist candidates are campaigning in support of workers' struggles to organize unions and use union power to resist the bosses' attacks, he said. They champion the land fight by Natives from the Six Nations Reserve in Caledonia, Ontario, as well as the Quebecois fight for independence. They call for the pulling out now all Canadian and other foreign troops from Afghanistan.

—ROBERT SIMMS

Democratic nominee Lamont: critic on Iraq war, belligerent toward Iran

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Since liberal businessman Ned Lamont's August 8 upset victory over Sen. Joseph Lieberman in Connecticut's Democratic primary elections, the incumbent senator has continued his campaign for a fourth term by running as an "independent."

Much of the media attributed Lamont's narrow victory to his criticism of Lieberman's "outspoken support for the Iraq war and perceived closeness to President Bush," as an AP report put it.

Recent polls show Lieberman running neck and neck with Lamont. A number of Republican officials, including President George Bush, have praised Lieberman and distanced themselves from Republican nominee Alan Schlesinger, who is far behind at 3 percent in the polls.

Lieberman, who was the Democrats' 2000 vice presidential nominee, says he will continue to caucus with members of his party if reelected. He is one of the Senate Democrats who have most strongly supported the White House's conduct of the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

Lamont, a wealthy cable TV executive, has focused his contest with Lieberman on criticism of the U.S. conduct of the Iraq war. Having backed the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, he argues that Washington is not making sufficient headway in Iraq and should cut its losses to press more effectively on other fronts such as Iran.

"We're not making progress in the war in Iraq right now," Lamont said in a July debate with Lieberman. "There are deaths of Americans. It's going downhill." He proposed to set a "timeline" and "start bringing our troops home now.""Today, America is no safer, Israel is no safer, Iran is more dangerous, Osama bin Laden is still at large," he argues in campaign statements on his website.

Lamont says "the Bush administration has been preoccupied with Iraq while national security and efforts to curb terrorism have suffered," according to an August 11 AP dispatch. He proposes redeploying National Guard forces from Iraq to reinforce "homeland defense."

In New York State, Jonathan Tasini, described by the media as an "antiwar Democrat," is engaged in a longshot Senate bid against incumbent Hillary Clinton in the September 12 primary.

Tasini, a liberal blogger and former president of the National Writers Union, has criticized Clinton for being one of 29 Senate Democrats who in 2002 voted to support the U.S. assault on Iraq. He campaigns along lines similar to Lamont.

Saying the U.S. invasion of Iraq was "unnecessary," Tasini calls for "bringing the troops home now" and replacing them with occupation forces from "a UN Security Council–backed real coalition of truly willing countries." Clinton is expected to easily win the primary.

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Australia: Send A$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*'s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Political crisis unfolds in Israel after war on Lebanon

Continued from front page

responsibility."

Israel Defense Forces (IDF) reservists who served in the Spearhead Brigade in Lebanon signed a petition they sent to Peretz and Halutz that highlights some of their criticisms. "There was one thing we were not and would not be willing to accept: We were unwilling to accept indecisiveness," it says. "The war's aim, which was not defined clearly, was even changed in the course of the fighting.

"The indecisiveness manifested itself in inaction, in not carrying out operational plans, and in canceling all the missions we were given during the fighting....

"To us the indecisiveness expressed deep disrespect for our willingness to join the ranks and fight and made us feel as though we had been spat on, since it contradicts the principles and values of warfare upon which we were trained at the Israeli Defense Forces," the petition states. "The blunders of the past six years and the underpreparation of the army have been carried on our backs—the backs of the fighters. In order to face the next battle prepared—and this may happen soon—a thorough and fundamental change must take place."

In an August 23 editorial titled "Save the IDF," the Israeli daily *Haaretz* urged the current government to speed up its withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories in order to retrain the military to fight large-scale wars.

"The army is not to blame for the fact that it has been dealing with ongoing security in the occupied territories for almost 40 years now," *Haaretz* said. "Both the regular army and the reserve forces have essentially been serving for years as subcontractors of the Shin Bet security service and substitutes for the police. The army mans checkpoints, arrests wanted men, accompanies the Shin Bet during arrests and carries out assassinations—a host of activities that prevent it from training for large-scale operational activity against a professional and well-entrenched enemy."

Preparations to meet such demands are already under way. According to an August 27 *Haaretz* article, "Defense officials are seeking NIS 30 billion [1 New Israeli Shekel = US 23 cents], mostly in fiscal 2007 and 2008, for resupplying, reacquiring weapons systems damaged during the war and preparing for the next war based on the lessons of recent hostilities, including developing new arms. The defense establishment is working under the assumption the Israel Defense Forces needs to be prepared quickly."

A number of voices are pressing for the war to resume soon.

"If a nation in Israel's fundamentally weak strategic situation has lost a war, it must win the next war convincingly and pretty soon," John O'Sullivan, a contributor to the U.S. conservative magazine *National Review,* wrote in the August 22 issue. The protests by reservists mark "the beginning of a major shift in Israeli politics to a more realistic strategic and diplomatic posture," he said. "The next war will be very different from the one that has just been interrupted."

Meanwhile, steps are slowly being taken to deploy an international "peacekeeping" force under the United Nations banner. The French government increased its pledge of troops to that force from 200 to 2,000. The Italian government, which has agreed to commit 3,000 troops, is expected to command the force by February, replacing Paris, which is to take the lead at first.

The Israeli government claims that, until that force is deployed, it has the right to carry out military actions inside Lebanon. Tel Aviv has continued to maintain an air and naval blockade of the country since mid-July.

A year after Katrina, evacuees face cutoff of aid

BY STEVE WARSHELL

HOUSTON, August 27—A year ago Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast. In its aftermath, more than a million people were driven from their homes. As the first anniversary of the social disaster approached, government agencies have begun to cut off benefits that have enabled those affected by Katrina to live in somewhat decent conditions in Texas.

On July 7 the U.S. Census Bureau released data showing population changes that the *Houston Chronicle* called "possibly the largest, fastest forced migration of U.S. residents in the nation's history."

The data shows that Harris County, which contains most of the city of Houston, grew by about 92,000 residents after the storm. But local officials suggest as many as 150,000 evacuees might reside here, about 90,000 of them in the housing funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

According to the governor's office, some 220,000 evacuees, largely from Louisiana, are still in Texas. The *Christian Science Monitor* reports that a Gallup survey, due out in early September, will also show that 59 percent of the evacuees still in this state don't have jobs and 41 percent live in households with incomes of less than $500 a month.

Many people were transported to shelters here a year ago after nearly a week in the suffocating heat and degradation of the New Orleans Superdome. Once in town they were given a chilling welcome by the city's mayor, who warned them that jail cells would be ready for all those who stepped out of line. Since then, Houston officials have consistently pointed to the former New Orleans residents as a leading cause of crime in the area.

The Associated Press reported that some 7,000 families in Texas who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina risk becoming homeless in September. For the past year, these families have been receiving rental assistance from FEMA. However, the agency's program that provides such aid ends August 31. Evacuees could lose the housing subsidy unless they qualify under a new program.

Houston TV station KTRK reported on August 25 that thousands of Katrina evacuees are without power because nobody told them they needed to begin paying their electricity bills directly to the utilities. Under a FEMA relief program, the government agreed to pay those bills for one year. The city of Houston claims it sent letters notifying evacuees that they needed to switch the bills to their own names. But many say they had no warning. "I just found this out when I picked my daughter up from school, came inside, and the lights were out," Shewanda Wilson told KTRK news. About 1,800 customers lost power last week in the first wave of cutoffs.

Federal Medicaid waivers were also ended by June 30, so many evacuees are now without medical insurance.

Chinese Historical Society hosts Bay Area event on book by three Chinese-Cuban generals

BY LEA SHERMAN

SAN FRANCISCO—The Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA)—the oldest and largest organization dedicated to the study, documentation, and dissemination of Chinese-American history in North America—is sponsoring a panel discussion on September 9 here on the book *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*. Pathfinder Press, which published the book, and Eastwind Books in San Francisco are co-sponsors of the event.

CHSA is located in the heart of San Francisco's bustling Chinatown. It includes a museum and learning center with exhibits and space for book launchings and other activities.

To build the event, 2,000 color postcards with the cover photo of the book are being mailed and distributed. Leaflets promoting the meeting have been issued in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

In the book, the three Chinese-Cuban generals—Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moíses Sío Wong—talk about the historic place of Chinese immigration in Cuba, their own participation in the clandestine struggle and 1956–58 revolutionary war that brought down a U.S.-backed dictatorship and opened a door to the socialist revolution in the Americas, as well as more than 50 years of revolutionary action and internationalism, from Cuba to Angola, Nicaragua, and Venezuela today.

The panel of speakers includes: L. Ling-chi Wang, professor emeritus at University of California, Berkeley, who organized a conference at the University of Havana in 1999 on the Chinese diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean, and one at Berkeley in 1998 on U.S.-Cuba relations; Felicia Lowe, a filmmaker who plans to show movie clips from her travels to Cuba related to the history of Chinese immigration there; Steve Wake of Tsukimi Kai, a Japanese-American organization; and Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press and editor of the book. Waters was among those who conducted the interviews with the Chinese-Cuban generals that resulted in *Our History Is Still Being Written.*

The event begins at 3:00 p.m. It will take place at CHSA's offices at 965 Clay Street. (See also ad below.)

Those attending can come early to see the museum. A special exhibit is currently on display there. Called, "Earthquake: The Chinatown Story," it documents the experiences of the Chinese community here during the devastating 1906 quake. The museum's permanent collection features a history of Chinese-Americans from the 1800s on.

CALENDAR

ALABAMA

Birmingham

September 7

Regional Action to Stop Attacks on Immigrants. Gather at 4:00 p.m. at Linn Park on 7th Ave at 20th St. N. *Tel.: (205) 281-4020 or (205) 602-0067.*

WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 7

March to Demand Legalization for All Immigrants. Gather at 4:00 p.m. at 7th Ave. and Constitution. March to Washington Monument. Buses coming from along the East Coast. *For more information contact Carecen, Tel.: (202) 328-9799; or Columbia Heights/Shaw Family Support Collaborative, Tel.:(202) 518-6737.*

UNITED KINGDOM

London

The Cuban Revolution: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow! Special guest speaker: Fernando Martínez Heredia. Sat., Sept. 9, 3:00 p.m. Bolivar Hall, 56 Grafton Way, London W1T 5DL. (Nearest Tubes: Tottenham Court Road, Goodge Street). Martínez took part in Cuba's revolutionary struggle to overthrow the Batista dictatorship as a member of the July 26 Movement. He has been a prominent writer and speaker on Che Guevara. A founding member of the Cuban Communist Party, he worked as head of the Philosophy Department at Havana University. *Sponsors include: North London Cuba Solidarity Campaign; Alberto Durango, Latin American Workers Association; Min Quan, Chinese People's Rights Organisation; RMT European Passenger branch; Colombia Solidarity Campaign. Tel.: 07930-570667.*

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Next Steps in the Fight for Immigrant Rights. Fri., Sept. 8. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner, $5 program. *307 W. 36th Street, 10th floor (near 8th Ave., use north set of elevators).*

Free the Cuban 5

NEW YORK

September 12

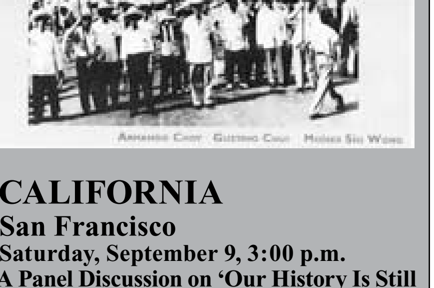
Gather at Times Square 4:00 p.m. March to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza (E. 47th St. and 1st Ave.) *For more information contact (718) 601-4751, or email freethecubanfive @hotmail.com*

WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 23

Gather at U.S. Justice Department at 11:00 a.m. and march to White House. *For more information, contact National Committee to Free the Cuban 5 at: (415) 821-6545. Email: freethefive@freethefive.org*

visit www.freethefive.org



CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Saturday, September 9, 3:00 p.m.

A Panel Discussion on 'Our History Is Still Being Written' and the History of Chinese of Cuba. Speakers: Mary-Alice Waters, Pathfinder Press; L. Ling-chi Wang, professor at U.C. Berkeley; Filmmaker Felicia Lowe; and Steve Wake of the Japanese-American group Tsukimi Kai. *965 Clay Street. For more info. visit www.chsa.org or call: (415) 391-1188.*

Anti-immigrant ordinance defeated in Palm Bay, Florida

BY ERIC SIMPSON

PALM BAY, Florida—Defenders of the rights of immigrants scored a victory here August 17 when they mobilized and pushed back an anti-immigrant proposal being considered by the city council. The measure, which had initially passed 4–1 at the first reading two weeks earlier, would have fined—and eventually tried to close—local businesses that were shown to hire undocumented workers.

The law was modeled on one passed earlier this summer in Hazelton, Pennsylvania, which also sanctions landlords for renting to workers without documents and established English as the "official language" of that eastern Pennsylvania town.

The version being considered in Palm Bay, a city with some 90,000 residents located on the east coast of central Florida, made no mention of housing or making English the official language. Those sections were removed after a similar ordinance was defeated in the city of Avon Park, Florida, in July. Its sponsors also removed a statement that "illegal aliens" cause crime after an early draft ignited local protests.

A vigil held before the meeting at the nearby Our Lady of Grace church drew 200 people.

"I am here so that they will straighten out that proposed law for us all," said José, 20, a local construction worker who joined the protest and asked that his last name not be used.

After the vigil, hundreds marched to the city council meeting, outnumbering the rightists who turned out to support the measure.

"I hear most crimes are committed by immigrants and that immigrants are taking jobs. But people are not here to be a problem, only to look for a better life," Pastor Rafael St. Juste from Ft. Lauderdale, said in an interview.

"My program is simple," Omari Musa, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Florida, told the meeting. "Amnesty. Legalization for all the undocumented. An end to document checks for employment. We welcome our immigrant brothers and sisters here."

"Our country is being invaded by an insidious enemy—and Americans want the invasion stopped," Don Wassmer, a supporter of the anti-immigrant measure, told the council.

Others blamed low wages and unemployment on immigrants. "We have a tremendous illegal alien problem—it's killing us," said David Caulkett of the group Floridians Against Illegal Immigration, one of several rightist organizations represented at the meeting.

But with the rightists in the minority, two city council members who had initially voted for the ordinance withdrew their support.

"Because we heard from the residents, I cannot support the ordinance," said council member Donna Brooks. She reported that of the 68 speakers, 48 spoke against the ordinance. Two other council members then spoke against the proposed measure.

Cheers broke out when it was clear that it did not have the votes to win. At 12:30 a.m. the measure died without coming to a vote, as it became clear that only one of the five council members supported it.

In tour of Boston, leader of struggle for immigrant rights campaigns for legalization



Militant/Ted Leonard

BOSTON—"We need to focus on full legalization for all 12 million undocumented workers," said Jesse Díaz (above, third from right) during an August 25 program here on "Which Way Forward for the Immigrant Rights Movement" that drew 40 people. His four-day tour of this area was initiated by the Boston May Day Coalition, an immigrant rights group.

Díaz is a co-founder of the Los Angeles March 25 Coalition, which helped mobilize hundreds of thousands in Los Angeles and joined in calling the nationwide May 1 strike to demand legal status for all immigrants.

At an event in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Díaz was joined by local school board member Martina Cruz, who urged those present to attend the September 7 march on Washington for immigrant rights.

—TED LEONARD

Sept. 7 immigrant rights march building along East Coast

Continued from front page

build the demonstration too. Núñez said he joined Casa de Maryland members on August 26 to reach out to thousands of soccer fans at a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the DC United soccer team. Casa de Maryland provides social services for immigrant workers, including operating hiring centers for day laborers.

Sergio Luna, president of the Columbia Heights Youth Soccer League, said he spent his weekend handing out flyers for the march to hundreds of soccer fans—and players—at parks in the District where many workers relax and games are held on weekends. "We want to go to the next coaches' meeting," to promote the march, Luna said. "Then they can reach all the players." Luna estimates there are some 2,500 amateur soccer players in the metropolitan area here.

Trade unionists and other supporters of immigrant rights are also building the September 7 action by distributing flyers at busy train stations, churches, on the job, and by word of mouth.

Chicago: Arellano wins support against deportation

BY ROLLANDE GIRARD

CHICAGO—"As a human being I have the right not to be treated as a criminal for the sole reason that I want to work," said Elvira Arellano in an August 20 interview here.

Five days earlier, Arellano, a former airplane cleaner, refused to report for deportation to the Department of Homeland Security. Instead she took sanctuary in the Adalberto United Methodist Church in Humboldt Park, a largely Puerto Rican neighborhood of Chicago. She remains there with her seven-year-old son Saúl, a U.S. citizen.

As this reporter visited the church, dozens of others came by to show support by contributing water, food, clothing, and money.

Arellano, 31, who has lived in the United States since 1997, was arrested by FBI agents in December 2002 in a raid at O'Hare airport for allegedly using a false Social Security number. As a result of her public fight for the right to live and work here and the broad support she won, she was granted three one-year stays of deportation. Since taking sanctuary her case has received national and international coverage.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement official Timothy Counts said Arellano was a "fugitive" and faces possible jail time.

Centro Sin Fronteras, an immigrant rights group organizing Arellano's defense, has filed a lawsuit to stop her deportation, arguing that the rights of her son, a U.S. citizen, would be violated if his mother were expelled to Mexico.

Among groups supporting Arellano are the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement; the Coalition of African, Asian, Arabic, European and Latinos Immigrants Coalition; and the March 10 Movement, which helped organize the May 1 immigrant rights mobilization here. Several elected officials have also voiced support, including Rep. Luis Gutierrez and County Commissioner Roberto Maldonado. Mayor Richard Daley called for the postponement of her deportation.

On Sunday, August 27, four supporters of the rightist Minutemen showed up outside the Adalberto United Methodist Church demanding that government authorities carry out the deportation. Some 50 supporters of Arellano stood outside the church in her defense.

Rollande Girard is a sewing machine operator and member of UNITE HERE Local 39C in Chicago.

La migra arrests 326 immigrants in Houston raids

BY ANTHONY DUTROW AND JACQUIE HENDERSON

HOUSTON—Immigration police announced August 22 they had arrested 326 immigrants here as part of a nationwide operation they called "Operation Return to Sender." The week of raids and arrests was carried out at the same time as a Congressional hearing in Houston, which focused on what elected officials and cops claimed is the threat of criminal activity by undocumented workers.

"Criminal aliens are a threat to the safety of our children, families, community and our nation," Kenneth Landgrebe, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) official, said in an August 22 statement on the arrests. "Our goal is to remove these threats from the United States."

The La Plaza apartments on the Northwest side of Houston was one of the housing complexes targeted by ICE agents. Many workers had to shutter themselves in their homes rather than risk being swept up. Anyone the cops deemed a possible immigrant was challenged to produce documents.

"Those who commit crimes should be arrested, but most of us who came here to work should be protected, not persecuted," María, a Guatemalan-born worker who has lived here 16 years, told the Spanish-language daily *El Día*.

At the Pine Gardens apartment complex in the Spring Branch section of Houston, Sharegj Díaz de Ortega told the *Militant,* "At 4:00 a.m. they pounded on my door. When I opened the door they wanted to know if a 'Juan García' lived here and claimed he lived in this complex. I told them there was no Juan García that lived here." Díaz de Ortega, a live-in manager at the apartment complex, said several other residential buildings in Spring Branch were also raided.

"They went door to door, without any warrants, checking documents. Later I found out that they arrested 16 people in my complex and all but one, a citizen, were deported," she reported. "No one here thinks a single one was on their lists," she added, referring to the cops' claim that they were targeting only a list of immigrants who have been issued final removal orders by an immigration judge.

ICE announced August 22 that they had already deported 142 of those arrested. In addition, the media reported several workplace raids around the country, including the arrest of 51 workers—two-thirds of the workforce—at a chair assembly factory in Sulphur, Oklahoma. Immigration raids were reported in Atlanta, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Washington, and Newark, New Jersey.

ON THE PICKET LINE

New Zealand: garment workers in Auckland strike for contract

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Chanting "Join the union, join the strike!" and passing out union leaflets, some 60 striking workers marched around, and then through, the Cambridge Clothing factory here August 21. Marchers then returned to the busy street outside to continue their one-day picket to back their fight for an improved contract.

National Distribution Union members at Cambridge decided to strike after rejecting the company's offer of a two-year contract, with a 2.2 percent pay raise for the first year, and a second-year increase to be solely determined by the company. Strikers held placards saying "5% for us," a raise above the 4 percent current rate of inflation. The contract would also remove the present long-service entitlement of an annual week's vacation, replacing it with one day off on a worker's birthday. Strikers hailed from Pacific Island nations, India, Fiji, the Philippines, China, Cambodia and Korea, as well as from New Zealand.

–Colin Parker



Militant/Felicity Coggan

Garment workers picket Cambridge Clothing, August 21, in Auckland, New Zealand.

'The Case of Leon Trotsky' answered Stalin's 1930s frame-ups

The Case of Leon Trotsky, with an introduction by George Novack. 726 pp., Pathfinder Press, 2006. $30.00.

BY BERNIE SENTER

MIAMI—The republication of *The Case of Leon Trotsky* by Pathfinder Press makes available this long out-of-print Marxist classic of the workers movement. The book is the verbatim transcript of Trotsky's testimony before the hearings of the Dewey Commission of Inquiry held in Coyoacan, Mexico, April 10–17, 1937. The commission, chaired by prominent U.S. philosopher

IN REVIEW

John Dewey, was investigating the charges against Leon Trotsky, a central leader of the Russian Revolution, in the Stalin-organized Moscow Trials of the 1930s.

Today's readers will find a treasure chest in this edition of the book, which is adorned with a beautiful cover, larger type size, and new text layout—making it more accessible for reading and study. The lively cover painting of the commission is by the New York artist Dorothy Eisner, who attended the Dewey Commission and assisted in its work.

In a single volume Trotsky's testimony provides a unique sweep of the concrete application of Marxism to the momentous events of the 1930s and the Russian Revolution of 1917. The issues dealt with are deeply connected with social and political questions posed today.

The regime of Joseph Stalin organized the trials as part of a political counter-revolution by a privileged caste in the Soviet Union that led to the reversal of the internationalist revolutionary course of the Bolsheviks under the leadership of V.I. Lenin. Central leaders of the revolution were framed up and executed on charges of terrorism, sabotage, and collaboration with Berlin and Tokyo to precipitate war and reestablish capitalism in the Soviet Union.

After a five-month international investigation, the commission concluded that Trotsky was not guilty of the charges against him, and that the trials were a frame-up. Its findings were published in *Not Guilty,* a sister volume to *The Case of Leon Trotsky* that is soon to be brought back into print by Pathfinder.

The findings of the commission and the campaign by the workers movement to expose the trials struck a heavy blow to Stalinism. Trotsky's testimony in defense of the conquests of the October 1917 Russian Revolution and the campaign to expose the Moscow Trials helped steel a new generation of working-class militants attracted to a communist movement that fought to maintain Lenin's revolutionary course.

Trotsky tells how the Stalinist bureaucracy evolved and gives a full presentation on the fight against this development. His detailed testimony describes and analyzes the irremediable contradictions of the Stalinist regime that would lead to its collapse.

Trotsky explains both how the frame-up trials were based on forced confessions and fabricated facts; and how central leaders of the Russian Revolution were pressured into "confessing." By the time of the fourth Moscow Trial of 1938, virtually all members of the Bolshevik Party's Political Bureau in 1917, with the exception of Stalin, had been framed and condemned to death.

At the heart of the book is Trotsky's defense of a revolutionary working-class perspective, and the example of the Russian Revolution, as humanity's only way out of the economic and social crisis, fascism, and wars bred by capitalism and imperialism.

In his testimony before the Dewey Commission, during the Spanish Civil War, Trotsky argues that world war is not inevitable after the victory of fascism in Germany in 1933, and the sharpening interimperialist rivalries. If the revolutionary developments then taking place in Spain resulted in a victory for the working class, that would be the greatest brake to the imperialist war drive, and open up further revolutionary developments in Europe and Asia, he said.

Trotsky argues in an extended exchange in the testimony that the Spanish workers had the opportunity to take power several times. But the fascist forces in Spain could only be defeated by building a working-class party on a principled political foundation that would give no political support to the capitalist regime, at the same time fighting against Franco. The Stalinist, anarchist, and social-democratic forces, on the other hand, had shackled the fighting capacity of the workers and peasants through their participation in the capitalist government.

"The key to the situation in the Soviet Union is not in the Soviet Union, but in Europe," explained Trotsky. "If the people in Spain are victorious against the fascists, if the working class in France will assure its movement to Socialism, then the situation in the Soviet Union will change immediately." Trotsky noted that such a victory would give a mighty revolutionary inspiration and impulse to the German workers.

Trotsky was asked during the investigation, "What is your opinion about the desirability of war as furthering the interests of Socialism?"

He answered, "It is almost the same as if the question were asked: What is your opinion of cholera and epidemics for human civilization?… To wish a war—it is absurd from every point of view."

Trotsky returned to this point during his summary remarks:

"War has in fact often expedited revolution. But precisely for this reason it has often led to abortive results. War sharpens social contradictions and mass discontent. But that is insufficient for the *triumph* of the proletarian revolution. Without a revolutionary party rooted in the masses, the revolutionary situation leads to the most cruel defeats. The task is not to 'expedite' war—for this, unfortunately, the imperialists of all countries are working, not unsuccessfully. The task is to utilize the time which the imperialists still leave to the working masses for the building of a revolutionary party and revolutionary trade unions."

This book offers invaluable lessons to workers, farmers, and youth engaged in the class struggle, and seeking to understand the dynamics of today's world.

Dave Prince contributed to this review.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

September 11, 1981

For the last two months, the racist South African regime has been waging a brutal, undeclared war in southern Angola. And it has been doing so with the confidence that it has the backing of the Reagan administration in Washington.

On August 26, South African Prime Minister Pieter W. Botha finally admitted the invasion.

The Pretoria government now claims troops are withdrawing, after killing more than 450 people. But Angola reports fighting is still going on.

Botha justified this flagrant violation of Angola's national sovereignty by claiming the apartheid regime has the right of "hot pursuit" to enter Angola to hunt down liberation forces of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

September 10, 1956

Adlai Stevenson and Estes Kefauver were in Clinton, Tennessee, on Aug. 30, the third day of the white-supremacist rioting against the integration of 12 Negro school children in the previously lily-white school.

But neither Stevenson nor Kefauver said one mumbling word against the racists or for the courageous Negro students. Not in Clinton, or anywhere else in the state, did the Democratic candidates for the country's highest offices make any public statements about the anti-Negro violence that was flaring up under their noses in Tennessee, as well as in Texas and other parts of the South.

They were in Tennessee to attend a regional conference of the Democratic Party and receive the pledges of allegiance of the white-supremacist politicians.

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

September 12, 1931

With the gaunt specter rising of a winter of misery and starvation for the millions of unemployed, the two leading contenders for the capitalist nominations for president in 1932, Hoover the Republican and Roosevelt the Democrat, are racing against each other to the goal of their ambitions with the plight of the unemployed as the football they kick around as they proceed. The latest act in this criminal play with the lives of millions of victims of "prosperity," has just been unfolded at the jubilee celebration of the founder of the Red Cross in this country. Each of the tacitly avowed presidential candidates delivered a radio address on the occasion which was concerned far less with the Red Cross than with a pronouncement of their respective positions on the most burning problem before the working class.

For a democratic, secular Palestine

International capitalism in crisis—a death trap for the Jews

The following is an excerpt from "The World Crisis of Imperialism and the Contradictory Dynamics of the Labor Vanguard," adopted by the June 2006 national convention of the Socialist Workers Party. It is based on a political report by SWP national secretary Jack Barnes adopted by the party's National Committee earlier that year.

The Israeli assault on Lebanon in July and early August is one more by-product of the increasing disorder of the world capitalist system. The sharpest consequences for imperialism are today in the Middle East and Central Asia. Washington's response has been the launching of what it calls "the long war."

Since 2001 the U.S. rulers have toppled governments in Afghanistan and Iraq, and are stepping up threats and pressures against Iran and Syria. Israel's aggression in Lebanon is one front in these broader, ongoing wars. The unpreparedness of Tel Aviv's armed forces command, and the outcome of this initial battle of a war that has only begun, has brought on a political crisis in Israel, as the capitalist rulers accelerate the transformation of their active-duty units and reserves to fight more effectively next time.

In past Israeli wars and major policing operations, groups of army reservists have issued petitions protesting Tel Aviv's brutality toward Palestinians and residents of surrounding Arab countries. This time, a protest petition signed by hundreds of reservists was of a different character: "The blunders of the past six years and the underpreparation of the army have been carried on our backs—the backs of the fighters," they wrote to Defense Minister Amir Peretz and Chief of Staff Dan Halutz. "In order to face the next battle prepared—and this may happen soon—a thorough and fundamental change must take place…. We will all attend calls to enlist in the future for any mission we will be required to complete, but we would like to know that these missions will be part of a clear objective and will be carried out by striving to engage in combat."

The *Militant* is running this excerpt from the 2006 report to help clarify the issues at stake. Portions of it were quoted in a letter by Barnes published in last week's issue ("'We are *for* whatever strengthens the confidence and capacities of the toilers': Letter from SWP leader on Israel's murderous war on Lebanon").

 Subheadings and footnotes are by the *Militant*. Footnotes appear on page 8.

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Militant/Paul Boutelle

Slogan on a wall in Lebanon, 1968, points to irrepressible roots of Palestinian struggle: violent expulsion of Palestinians from their land in 1947–48, when Israel was established.

BY JACK BARNES

The prospect of a "Greater Israel," stretching from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River, has ended for a decisive majority of the ruling class there. The United States, not Israel, has turned out to be the "promised land" for the Jews. This is reflected even in gross statistics. Of the world's 13 to 14 million Jews, 6.2 million make their home in the United States, while 5.3 million live in Israel. As of a few months ago, the number of Israelis leaving the country since 2003 outpaced immigration by some 70,000 people.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian population in the territories under Tel Aviv's control has grown to 5 million. That's just shy of a majority.

Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has declared, as Ariel Sharon and other leaders of the state and army in Israel had done previously, that Tel Aviv's goal, above all, must be to "ensure a Jewish majority in the country." Last year when Olmert, then deputy prime minister, spoke to some 250 new immigrants from the United States who were opposed to the Israeli government's withdrawal from Gaza, he told them: "Maybe if you or a few million of you had come earlier, we wouldn't have had to leave Gaza." But that never happened and was never going to. Now it's clear it never will.

Withdrawing from Gaza and from much of the occupied territory on the West Bank is reaching near consensus status within the ruling class of Israel.

Not the 'promised land'

Of course, the imperialist United States will not be "the promised land" for Jews forever. The next great social crisis will settle that for those who live on hope rather than proletarian politics. But for several generations it has and continues to seem that way. The big majority of Jews who emigrated from Europe to the United States in the last half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth became workers in this country, many of them considering themselves socialists or communists of some variety. But the class composition of the Jewish population has changed dramatically over the past half century, with a majority of the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of these immigrants moving into better-off layers of "rent" collectors among the middle classes and professionals.[1]

According to a study last year by the American Jewish Committee, the per capita income of Jews in the United States today is almost twice that of the rest of the population on average, while 61 percent of Jews had at least a four-year college degree versus 22 percent of the overall population.

In fact, one of the central aims of *The Bell Curve*[2] when it was published in 1994 was to justify this higher average income by arguing that even compared to others of relatively pale complexion in the United States, Jews—"specifically, Ashkenazi Jews of European origins"—are smarter than other people. According to the book, this explains "their disproportionate level of success, usually by orders of magnitude," in various arenas of achievement. Thus, no guilt: you were just born smarter than "shvartzes" and their slightly lighter-skinned brethren. Adam Smith's invisible hand takes care of the rest. Be generous and tolerant. Enjoy being an American.

So long as the imperialist system prevails, however, neither the United States nor anywhere else will be a "promised land" for the Jews for a long period in history. For Jews in this country, the consequences of the long hot winter world capitalism has entered will bring more—and much worse—than the mounting economic instability and insecurity that will hit widening layers of the middle classes. It will bring in its wake a new rise of fascist organizations that will target not just the labor movement, Blacks, women, and others among the oppressed and exploited, but will also lace their radical anticapitalist demagogy and conspiracy mania with Jew-hating filth and carry out physical assaults on Jews.

The U.S. bourgeoisie and their petty-bourgeois spokespersons—including many who are Jewish—promote comfortable assurances that "it can't happen here." But such delusions offer no greater protection to Jews in the imperialist United States (or Europe) than it did to those convinced in the 1920s and 1930s that they had fully "assimilated" into capitalist society in enlightened Germany.

Not a 'peace process'

What the Israeli rulers are seeking to impose in order to consolidate Israel within borders of their own choosing is not a "peace process," as it's dubbed by liberals in the big-business media. It's the consolidation of an Israel still based on the forcible expulsion of the Palestinian majority, together with the "right of return" of those of Jewish parentage—and *only* those of such parentage. Its newly imposed borders will roughly correspond to the 400-mile-long wall the Israeli rulers are building inside the occupied West Bank, which lops off up to 10 percent of that occupied territory for Israel. What's more, Tel Aviv intends to hold onto East Jerusalem and selected large suburban Jewish settlements in the West Bank, as well as strategic military locations along the Jordanian border.

There can and will be no long-term

Continued on page 8

Cape Verde honors Cuba's internationalism

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS AND LUIS MADRID

HAVANA—At a ceremony here July 21 Cuban internationalist combatant Víctor Dreke was decorated with the Amilcar Cabral Order, the highest honor conferred by the government of Cape Verde. The order, bestowed in recognition of Dreke's contribution to the struggle against Portuguese colonialism in Africa, was presented by Crispina Gomes, Cape Verde's ambassador to Cuba.

From February 1967 to late 1968, Dreke led a column of some 60 Cuban internationalist volunteers who fought alongside the anti-imperialist forces of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC).

The state decree was signed by Pedro Rodrigues Pires, himself an independence fighter and current president of the archipelago nation off the coast of West Africa. The decree acknowledged the contributions made nearly four decades ago by 25 foreign-born "generous men and women…in the process that led to Cape Verde's independence" in July 1975. The struggle that put an end to five centuries of Portuguese colonial rule, Rodrigues Pires noted, required "audacity, sacrifices and much personal selflessness in an unequal and persistent combat."





Militant photos by Luis Madrid

Above: Crispina Gomes (left), Cape Verde's ambassador to Cuba, presents Víctor Dreke with the Amilcar Cabral Order—the highest honor conferred by her government—on July 21 in Havana. Left: Dreke is congratulated by Jorge Risquet (left), who in the mid-1960s led an internationalist mission in Congo-Brazzaville, and Brig. Gen. (r) Rafael Moracén, who from 1965 on helped lead Cuba's internationalist aid to Angola's national liberation struggle.

Began revolutionary activity in 1952

Dreke, who is today Cuba's ambassador to Equatorial Guinea, began his revolutionary activity in 1952 when, as a teenager, he threw himself into the struggle against the U.S.-backed military coup by Fulgencio Batista. Dreke rose to the rank of captain in the revolutionary war that toppled the dictatorship on Jan. 1, 1959. From 1962 to 1964 he commanded the special units that defeated the U.S.-sponsored counterrevolutionary bands in the Escambray mountains in central Cuba, which were trying to overthrow the revolutionary government.

In 1965, Dreke served as second-in-command to Ernesto Che Guevara, who was leading a column of 128 Cuban internationalist volunteers responding to a request for aid from anti-imperialist forces in the Congo. At the end of that wrenching seven-month effort, Che wrote of Dreke's conduct, "The only reason I am not recommending that he be promoted is that he already holds the highest rank"—comandante.

Much of this history is recounted by Dreke in his book *From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution.*

On his return to Cuba in 1965, Dreke was placed in charge of Military Unit 1546, training Cuban internationalist volunteers and revolutionaries from other countries who had asked the Cuban government for help. This included cadres of the independence struggle in Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau.

Amilcar Cabral, the central leader of the PAIGC, was among the revolutionary leaders from around the world who converged in Havana in January 1966 for the Solidarity Conference of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America—known as the Tricontinental Conference.

Anticolonial struggle

"In our present historical condition, there are only two possible paths for an independent nation," Cabral told the gathering, "to return to imperialist domination (neo-colonialism, capitalism, state capitalism), or to take the road of socialism." Those seeking to rid their countries of colonial oppression cannot ignore the fact, he added, that "the essential instrument of imperialist domination is violence." By then, the PAIGC had been waging a war of national liberation for nearly three years against more than 20,000 Portuguese troops; the independence movement had a third of Guinea-Bissau under its control.

The PAIGC, Dreke recalled in an interview with the *Militant*, was carrying out political work across the country, organizing peasants, youth, women. It had popular support. It had a leadership with structure and discipline that was in the field, fighting alongside the ranks. This stood in stark contrast to the Congo experience, he stressed. "You may start as a small group, but you must win people over," and the PAIGC was doing that.

After the Tricontinental Conference, Havana's collaboration with the PAIGC deepened. The Guineans and Cape Verdeans, Cabral insisted, had to lead the struggle themselves. In agreement with the Cuban leadership, they wanted only a limited number of internationalist volunteers whose combat experience they took full advantage of to advance—directly on the field of battle—the training of their forces.

Little more than a year after leaving the Congo, Dreke returned to Africa at the head of the military mission aiding the struggle led by the PAIGC.

Cabral, who was born in Guinea-Bissau of Cape Verdean parents, fought to unite the liberation forces in the two parts of the Portuguese colony in a single struggle. "Cabral believed that when Guinea-Bissau was liberated, Cape Verde too would be free," Dreke emphasized. Cabral's political course represented an important break from the divisions fostered by Portuguese imperialism. Colonial domination of the region had for a long time relied on the relative privileges bestowed on the Cape Verdean population. The Portuguese sought to inculcate Cape Verdeans with a sense of racial superiority over Africans on the continent.

Recognizing that Cape Verde's topography precluded waging a successful guerrilla struggle on the islands, Cabral organized the scores of Cape Verdeans trained in Cuba to join the guerrilla fronts on the continent in Guinea-Bissau. Cabral's course was a measure of his leadership caliber, Dreke emphasized in accepting the decoration.

Cabral's political capacities, and the military, medical, and other assistance from Cuba, enabled the PAIGC to become the most effective liberation movement in sub-Saharan Africa at that time. "Portugal took its heaviest military blows in Guinea-Bissau," stressed Ambassador Gomes. The impact was felt not only throughout the Portuguese colonies but in the metropolis itself. "It was a weighty factor in the 'Carnation Revolution,'" she added, referring to the April 1974 overthrow of Lisbon's nearly 50-year-old dictatorship.

In face of a decade of armed struggle, Portugal acknowledged defeat, and on Sept. 10, 1974, Guinea-Bissau became independent. Fewer than 14 months later Lisbon had ceded independence to Mozambique, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Angola.

Cuban internationalists at ceremony

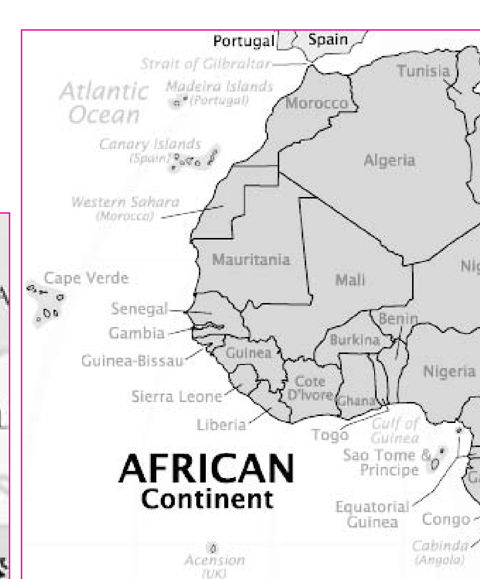
More than a dozen Cuban internationalist volunteers who fought for the independence of Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau and other Portuguese colonies attended the ceremony. One of them was Pedro Rodríguez Peralta, himself a recipient of the Amilcar Cabral Order. Rodríguez, who headed the Cuban forces in the Guinean southern front, was wounded and captured by the Portuguese in November 1969, winning his freedom a week after independence was declared in 1974.

Also among the 25 "generous men and women" on whom the Amilcar Cabral Order has been bestowed is Ahmed Ben Bella, president of Algeria's revolutionary government from 1962 until its overthrow in 1965.

The ambassador of Angola to Cuba and ranking officials of the embassies of Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau attended the award presentation.

Among the Cuban leaders present were Fernando Remírez, head of international relations for the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party; Jorge Risquet, who led Cuba's internationalist mission to Congo-Brazzaville in 1965–67; Brig. Gen. Arnaldo Tamayo, first Cuban cosmonaut and head of foreign affairs for the Revolutionary Armed Forces; Brig. Gen. (r) Rafael Moracén, who from 1965 on was centrally involved in the leadership of Cuba's internationalist aid to Angola's freedom fighters, and is currently head of international relations for the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution; and Brig. Gen. (r) Armando Choy, former Cuban ambassador to Cape Verde.





For a democratic, secular Palestine

Continued from page 6

peace with the dispossessed Palestinian people on that basis. Or on any other basis that forcibly seeks to guarantee a permanent, large Jewish majority in Palestine. The Israeli rulers aren't pulling back from their "right" to demolish the family homes of Palestinians accused of bombings or other attacks, let alone their "obligation" to "execute" members and leaders of Palestinian organizations they hold responsible for "terrorism."

Factionalism in bourgeois politics

Nor will this be a smooth process within the Israeli ruling class itself. Factionalism is on the rise in bourgeois politics there, too. We should take seriously the end of the exclusive domination of the Labor Party by Ashkenazi Jews from Europe, as signaled last year by the defeat in the race for party leader of longtime Labor patriarch Shimon Peres by Amir Peretz, a Moroccan-born Sephardic Jew. Peretz is also the top official of the Histadrut, the union federation and social organization closely tied into the Israeli state from its origins. This shift in the Labor Party, which governed uninterruptedly for almost three decades following Israel's establishment in 1948, became inevitable once that government monopoly had been broken in 1977 by the Likud Party, which has a strong electoral base among the more highly proletarian Sephardic Jews.

Now the Likud has split, with Sharon, Olmert, and other of its leaders forming a new party, Kadima, and picking up Peres and others on the rebound from Labor, at least for the time being. Olmert is also the first Israeli prime minister who is neither a military figure from one or more of Israel's wars from 1948 to today nor a veteran leader of the Zionist organizations that established the Israeli state. Those were the roots of David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Menachem Begin, Yitzhak Rabin, and others. The military is how Ariel Sharon made his mark in Israel for four decades before settling in as a Likud Party leader in the mid-1980s.

Olmert's Likud opponent in the upcoming elections, former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, served in an elite unit that carried out commando operations at the Beirut airport in 1968 and in 1972 at Israel's Ben Gurion airport, during which he was wounded. (Benjamin Netanyahu's brother, Yonatan, moreover, is an Israeli hero and martyr, having been killed in action while leading from the front the near-legendary 1976 commando raid on Uganda's Entebbe airport. Some 200 Israeli special forces stormed the airport building, rescuing 100 Air France passengers, mostly Israelis, being held hostage. All seven hijackers, twenty Ugandan soldiers, and three hostages were killed during the operation. Netanyahu was the only Israeli commando killed.)

But that period in Israeli politics has come to an end. Olmert's Kadima Party will get the biggest vote in the election, but whatever party or coalition of parties comes out on top, this overall direction in bourgeois politics in Israel is irreversible.[3]

As all this unfolds, the stakes continue to mount for the Palestinian people in forging a leadership adequate to the tasks before them, which remains the fight for a democratic, secular Palestine.[4] The bourgeoisification and political retreat of the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, described in "The Opening Guns of World War III" some fifteen years ago[5], has proceeded apace. The PLO long ago exhausted its capacity to lead forward the Palestinian toilers in fighting for national liberation.

The bourgeois-nationalist opposition, Hamas, with its origins in the Muslim Brotherhood, neither has any alternative program or strategy to advance the struggle, nor offers more space to the proletariat to organize and act in the interests of the toiling majority of the Palestinian people.

A road forward

A road forward out of this political morass can only—and will—come out of the response of new generations of working people and youth as the struggle continues on many fronts: fights for land; for water rights; for freedom of movement, freedom to travel; for jobs, decent wages, and union protection; for the release of political prisoners; for women's equality; against the brutal operations of Tel Aviv's cops, troops, and commandos; against war threats and mounting prospects for devastating military blows against sections of Israel itself; and many others. Neither we nor anyone else has a script or a timetable of how the forging of such a leadership, a communist leadership, will unfold in Palestine, or anywhere else in the world.

As for Israel itself, a revolutionary leadership that is proletarian internationalist to its core must be built there too—a secular, multinational leadership, with a substantial Jewish component in its makeup. This is a difficult task under the social, political, and military conditions prevailing in Israel. It won't happen rapidly. And the Palestinian people will not wait, and cannot be asked to wait, for class divisions and conflicts to deepen enough inside Israel for such a process to take place.

Once again, no timetables. A communist leadership of Jewish and Arab workers and farmers—dedicated to the fight for a democratic secular Palestine, and for socialist revolution—can and will be built, however. It will be built as growing numbers of toilers come to understand that if this task is not achieved in time, there will be little left of that part of the world.

January 2006



"Greater Israel" would include Gaza and the still occupied West Bank, shaded area adjacent to river between Jordan and Israel.

NOTES

1. The high incomes of those in better-off middle class and professional layers are accounted for by the fact that on top of any payment they may receive for the sale of their labor power (comparable to workers' wages), their relatively privileged position in bourgeois society allows them to skim off a portion of the surplus value extracted by the capitalist class from the exploitation of workers. These excess sources of income, substantial for the individuals concerned, are called "rents."

2. Richard J. Herrnstein and Charles Murray, *The Bell Curve: Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life* (New York: Free Press, 1994), p. 275. This book seeks to provide a "statistical" and "scientific" rationalization for the high income of middle-class and professional layers. In a computerized society in which a "cognitive elite" is in great demand, the authors argue, such wealth and privilege are rewards for being smarter. According to the authors, as you move from lower to higher IQs along the "bell curve," those in the upper middle classes (the "cognitive elite")—due to "innate" intelligence—will be bunched at the right or "smarter" end.

3. Former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon resigned from Likud in November 2005, forcing a split in the party that ruled at that time. Fourteen Likud members of parliament and two from the main opposition Labor Party joined him in launching a new political formation called Kadima, or "Forward." Sharon suffered a massive stroke in January 2006 and has remained in a coma ever since. Kadima nonetheless won a plurality in the Israeli elections in March and formed a coalition government that includes the Labor Party.

4. For an explanation of the political centrality and revolutionary character of the fight for a democratic, secular Palestine, see the 1971 Socialist Workers Party resolution, "Israel and the Arab Revolution," in the Education for Socialists bulletin of the same name (Pathfinder Press, 1973).

5. For more on the political evolution of the PLO see "Washington's Assault on Iraq: The Opening Guns of World War III," by Jack Barnes, in *New International* no. 7 (1991), pp. 87–91.

STATEMENT BY SWP CANDIDATES

Immediate residency for all immigrants!

Continued from front page

forward. Elvira Arellano, a former airplane cleaner in Chicago waging a public fight against deportation, is not a unique case. She exemplifies the many immigrant workers who have gained self-confidence, are taking a militant stand in face of government and employer attacks, and are winning broad support.

These developments confirm that the historic influx of immigration in recent decades has irreversibly strengthened the U.S. working class. Workers and farmers are driven to immigrate by grinding economic conditions in countries dominated by imperialism. But immigrants are not suffering victims. They are fellow workers who bring their class-struggle experiences, help broaden the horizons of their co-workers, and themselves shed prejudices about U.S.-born workers.

The battle for the legalization of all immigrants is crucial for the labor movement. Working people as a whole face an increasingly brutal employer offensive against their wages, job conditions, and rights. Key to this offensive is the effort to maintain a superexploited section of the working class with diminished rights, to divide workers and drive down the wages of all.

The use of undocumented labor today is an integral part of U.S. industry and agriculture. The *migra* police raids, deportations, and legal restrictions against the undocumented are designed not to expel most immigrants but rather to keep them as superexploited pariahs to fatten the profits of the already wealthy capitalists.

All current "immigration reform" bills should be opposed. Both the House and Senate measures would beef up the immigration police. All variants of the Senate bill would impose heavy restrictions, including workers' dependence on bosses for gaining legal status. Instead, the workers movement should take an unambiguous stand: immediate amnesty and residency with no conditions!

Some Democratic Party "friend of immigrant" politicians warn against using militant methods that "might cause a backlash." They insist, "Don't be unrealistic. Go lobby the senators. Settle for what's possible to get from Congress now. And elect us in November." Such advice is detrimental. Supporting capitalist politicians or subordinating the struggle to who gets elected is a sure recipe for failure. The only effective course, the only effective lobbying working people can do, is through mass mobilizations and uncompromising struggles like that by Arellano.

Capitalism, as its economic crisis worsens, is breeding sharper class polarization, including ultrarightist groups like the Minutemen and the Confederate flag–wavers who recently confronted immigrant workers and their supporters in Riverside, New Jersey. Such anti-working-class outfits must be taken on and defeated. This can't be done by relying on cops or capitalist politicians, nor on small, isolated confrontations. They can be defeated only by workers organizing countermobilizations and other large, public, and disciplined actions with unwavering demands.

Survivor of Sago disaster, others sue bosses

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and Health Administration cited the Sago Mine more than 200 times for violations of federal safety regulations," McCloy's suit states. "That same year, state regulators issued the mine an additional 144 citations." It points out that the accident rate at Sago was roughly three times the national average.

Noting that ICG claims a lightning strike caused the explosion, the McCloy suit argues that the owners had not insured proper installation of arrestors to prevent a lightning strike from triggering an underground explosion.

"Regardless of the ignition source, the explosion...was possible only because the seal in that area did not in fact 'seal' that area and a deadly combustible mixture of oxygen and methane was present," the suit says.

"This deadly mixture of methane gas and oxygen pre-existed the lightning strike of January 2, 2006, at or about 6:26 a.m.," the suit explains. "This deadly mixture of methane gas and oxygen was the direct result of the illegal and unsafe mining practices of the defendant Wolf Run."

McCloy's suit says the mine seals made of Omega block were "shoddily constructed." The Omega block itself "could not reasonably protect coal miners from underground explosions when used to construct mine seals."

As for the air packs the miners carried, manufactured by CSE, "at least four" of the self-contained rescue devices, designed to provide an hour's supply of oxygen, failed to function, preventing miners from fleeing the area filled with smoke by the blast.

"As a result of the mass malfunction, Mr. McCloy and the other miners with working rescuers had to share their already limited supply of oxygen with those having none," the complaint reads.

GMS was providing contract labor at Sago and does so at a number of mines throughout northern Appalachia. GMS employee James Scott testified in the Sago investigation that he had never before built seals using Omega blocks and that his work crew was himself and two inexperienced miners.

In June, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) filed a lawsuit to force the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to periodically inspect oxygen packs and provide emergency training in their use to all coal miners. U.S. District Judge John Bates threw the suit out of court August 23.

In another court decision that day, the Sago mine owners were rebuffed in their demand to know the identities of miners who were being represented by the UMWA in the ongoing investigation of the disaster. Another federal judge ruled that MSHA can keep these names confidential. "We're glad that the judge upheld the right of these workers to have representation and to do so without fear of being exposed and being intimidated by the company," UMWA communications director Phil Smith told AP.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Omega block seals continue to exist in mines across Appalachia. Following the Sago disaster, five miners were killed when an explosion ripped through the Darby mine in Kentucky, destroying Omega block seals.

"Every sealed area in every underground coal mine in West Virginia and throughout the United States should be considered a potential time bomb—and treated accordingly," said J. Davitt McAteer, director of MSHA under the Clinton administration, in a preliminary report on the Sago disaster issued in July. He said the blocks at Sago were "pulverized" and "reduced to the consistency of flour." McAteer has been appointed by West Virginia governor Joseph Manchin to conduct an investigation at Sago.

According to McAteer, there are 942 Omega block seals in 56 mines in West Virginia. Sixteen of Virginia's 118 mines use Omega block seals, according to the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette.* An investigation by Kentucky officials following the Darby explosion revealed 236 Omega block seals used in that state. According to Joseph Sbaffoni, director of Pennsylvania's Bureau of Mine Safety, there are no permanent Omega seals in Pennsylvania mines. But McAteer estimates that between 40 and 50 such seals exist in that state too.

LETTERS

Cuba mobilizes reservists

In an interview by *Granma* editor Lázaro Barredo August 18, Acting President and Minister of Defense Raúl Castro informed the Cuban people of measures taken by the government since the July 31 announcement of Fidel Castro's surgery and his passing of responsibilities to other leaders.

Raúl Castro said he had ordered a state of preparedness for the regular army and the mobilization of thousands of reservists and militia members, who are going through military exercises. "If we were looking only at the internal situation, we would not need to mobilize" anyone, he said. The maneuvers are organized in response to recent threats and attacks from Washington that "have not gone beyond rhetoric." The troops "will be rotated, in approximately equal groups, as they accomplish their objectives," he said. "[They] will be given adequate advance notice of when they will be called up and how long they will stay in these units guarding the Homeland."

Matilde Zimmermann
Havana, Cuba

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Black lung

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recommendation for a decade.

The study tracked X-rays of more than 29,000 miners between 1996 and 2002. It found about 3 percent had black lung, or coal miners' pneumoconiosis. That compares to 10 percent in 1969. This study was conducted before the recent boom in coal production and the related speedup by the mine owners and their profit-driven disregard for safety. This has resulted in the deaths of 37 miners so far this year, overwhelmingly at nonunion mines.

The study cites Somerset County, Pennsylvania, as one of the worst counties in the country for black-lung rates. George Ellis, Pennsylvania Coal Association president, said the findings contradict much of what he hears, reported the *Tribune Democrat.* "It's the first I've heard of a problem in Pennsylvania," he said.

According to AP, Kentucky Coal Association president Bill Caylor said that more research should be done before coal operators are blamed. He pointed to the study's reported overall decline in the disease in the last three decades to back up his claim.

"Miners are getting black lung at a younger age and a more advanced state," Sparkle Bonds told the *Militant* in a recent phone interview. Bonds works for the Virginia Black Lung Association. One miner who visited her office in 1998–99 died six years later at the age of 43, Bonds said. Another developed acute silicosis after just three years.

According to the United Mine Workers of America, every year 1,500 former miners die from the disease.

The 1969 Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act mandated that black lung be eliminated. The law established a benefits program to compensate victims. A three-week strike that shut down coal production in West Virginia was a key factor leading to passage of this legislation.

But being diagnosed with black lung and getting benefits are very different things, James M. Taulbee told the *Militant.* Taulbee worked in coal mines in Kentucky for 17 years. He said he was disabled after injuring his back in a roof fall. He has also been denied black lung benefits despite having X-rays and a doctor's letter verifying that he has the disease. Taulbee and his father, James I. Taulbee, spoke to *Militant* reporters August 20 in their home in Harlan, Kentucky.

"This is what they do, you have two doctors who say you have black lung and they find two others who deny it. And they keep appealing and appealing until you give up," James M. Taulbee said.

His father, who drove coal trucks for 30 years, qualified for black lung benefits. In order to fulfill a requirement that recipients retrain for other jobs, however, his father has been ordered to go back to school for a 17-week course to get a GED. But James I. Taulbee is 65 years old. Despite providing the required doctor's note explaining he was unable to go to school full-time because of a heart condition, the retired miner was cut off benefits after 17 weeks.

"My lawyer told me to give up fighting because they would only reduce my social security by the amount I get for black lung benefits," the elder Taulbee said.

Shawn Smith, 21, a bolt runner in a non-union mine near Harlan, told the *Militant* his job exposes him to an even higher amount of coal dust than most of his co-workers. "We run the miner down the middle of the mine," he said. "On one side there's fresh air, the 'intake.' But I work on the 'return' side where the fans suck out all the dirty air."

Seth Dellinger from Washington, and Tony Lane from Pittsburgh contributed to this article.